analysis of Elaine's record in connection with the Mulligan letters, and its general philosophy was the deadly peril of subordinating rigid moral ideals to party advantage. During September and October Schurz stumped the country from Indianapolis to New Haven, speaking at some twenty-five different places. The contest proved a particularly desperate one. Elaine had a wonderful hold on the rank and file of his party, especially in the West. The moral issue was befogged in the popular thought by serious charges of private immorality in earlier years on the part of Cleveland. Western Republicans especially received with stolidity the exhortations to save the country by voting for such a Democrat. Elaine was defeated by only the narrowest possible margin. The closeness of the result really emphasized the triumpli of the Independents, for it left no room to doubt that they determined the outcome. And the victors and the vanquished agreed, however reluctantly, that the chief laurels belonged to Mr. Schurz.

With the laurels came responsibilities. The accession of the Democracy to power, after twenty-four years of exclusion, would test as nothing else could the strength of the hold which civil-service reform had obtained. From the executive departments, especially the Interior, anxious inquiries poured in upon Mr. Schurz as to whether a " clean sweep " was coming, and eager requests were made for his influence. These often pathetic appeals were not needed to arouse him to

vigorous activ-
ity in this cause. In the very letter congratulating Cleveland on
his election Schurz said: " The crucial test will not be the tariff
question, for that, I am confident, will settle itself more easily
than many people suppose; but it is civil service that will pre-
* sent itself for consideration at once, and unless decided rightly,
will continue to harass you without ceasing." On various phases
of this theme he was to write continually for two years.